

Regular Session, 2006

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 27

BY SENATOR MARIONNEAUX

CONDOLENCES. Expresses condolences upon the death of Army Sergeant Julia V. Atkins.

A RESOLUTION

To express the sincere and heartfelt condolences of the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana to the family of United States Army Sergeant Julia V. Atkins upon her death in ground combat in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

WHEREAS, Sergeant Atkins was a native of, and grew up in Bossier City, in a family with a strong history of military service and therefore no one was surprised that she enlisted in the active duty army after she had completed her high school education; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant Atkins was mentally and physically tough beyond her twenty-two years partly because she had lost her mother at the young age of twelve and was forced to face challenges and adversities that most children her age with two parents are never confronted with; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant Atkins father, Billy Atkins, who is a member of the Louisiana National Guard's 256th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, used his military bearing to help shape his youngest child's strong character, patriotism, true love of country, and desire to serve it; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant Atkins decided that she would be able to best serve her country in the military police, completing the rigorous training requirements and mastering the high standards demanded of soldiers who wear the crossed muskets insignia of U.S.

1 Army Military Police; and

2 WHEREAS, Sergeant Atkins was assigned to the 64th Military Police Company,
3 720th Military Police Battalion, 89th Military Police Brigade based at Fort Hood, Texas,
4 which, after several months of exhaustive training in the high deserts of Texas and Fort
5 Irwin, California, was deployed to Iraq for what was to be Sergeant Atkins first tour of
6 combat duty in Iraq; and

7 WHEREAS, Sergeant Atkins distinguished herself greatly, served her country
8 bravely, and sharpened her military police skills to the razor's edge in her efforts to help her
9 unit successfully complete its mission to restore and maintain order in the chaos of the war
10 torn country before returning safely to Fort Hood; and

11 WHEREAS, Sergeant Atkins was happy to be home and began to make plans for her
12 life after her enlistment was completed, plans that included returning to school for a college
13 degree, getting married to her fiancée who also served in her unit and maybe starting a
14 family some day; and

15 WHEREAS, Sergeant Atkins put all of her future plans on hold when her unit was
16 ordered back to Iraq for a second tour of the war ravaged country and she proudly returned
17 with her comrades to establish and maintain stability, law and order in a land filled with
18 lawless terrorists; and

19 WHEREAS, Sergeant Atkins and her troops were conducting a mounted patrol on
20 December 10, 2005, in the Adhamiyah district of north Baghdad when they were engaged
21 by heavily-armed terrorist forces and she was mortally wounded in the attack; and

22 WHEREAS, Sergeant Atkins was recognized for her bravery with the award of the
23 Bronze Star Medal for valor in combat and the Purple Heart for wounds suffered in combat.

24 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana
25 does hereby extend its deepest sympathy and sincere condolences to the family of United
26 States Army Sergeant Julia V. Atkins for their sacrifice in America's War on Terror.

27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the
28 family of Army Sergeant Julia V. Atkins.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Heyward Jeffers.

DIGEST

Marionneaux

SR No. 27

Expresses condolences to the family of U.S. Army Sergeant Julie V. Atkins upon her death in combat in Operation Iraqi Freedom.